FRAUDS DETECTED:

OR,

CONSIDERATIONS

Offered to the

PUBLIC;

SHEWING THE

Neceſſity of ſome more effectual Proviſion

AGAINST

Deceits, Differences, and Incertainties,

IN

DRUGS,

AND

COMPOSITIONS of MEDICINES:

Occaſioned by the late

REFORMATION

OF THE

LONDON *PHARMACOPOEIA*.

Omnis cura eo tendit, ut bonum & utile ei,
Qui curatur afferat. Pl. de San.

LONDON:

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INTRODUCTION.

THE Preſident and College of Phyſicians, having with *great Care, Pains, and Induſtry, reviſed, corrected, and reformed their Pharmacopæia* *, *or Book preſcribing and directing the Manner of preparing all Sorts of Medicines*, &c. and having lately publiſhed the ſaid Book.

And His Majeſty having thought fit, *by and with the Advice of his Privy-Council, to enforce the Obſervance of it*, by the Publication of an Order, prefixed to the ſaid Book, *requiring, charging, and commanding all and ſingular Apothecaries, and others, not to compound or make any Medicine, or Medicinal Receipt or Preſcription*, &c. *in any other Manner or Form than is directed by the ſaid Book.*

And farther, *as the Eſtabliſhing the general Uſe of this Book, is intended to prevent all Deceits, Differences, and Incertainties, in the making or compounding of Medicines, in which the Lives and Healths of his Majeſty's Subjects, are ſo highly concerned.*

* Commonly called the *Diſpenſatory.*

It is certainly the Duty of every honeſt Apothecary, and of every honeſt and good Subject concerned in the making or compounding of Medicines, ſtrictly to conform himſelf to the Directions contained in it, both as to the Materials, as well as the Manner and Form of making and compounding them.

The Phyſicians had Reaſon ſufficient for ſoliciting and procuring this Order of Council, in as much as their Reputations, and the Succeſs of their Practice, depend upon the faithful Compoſition and Goodneſs of the Medicines they direct; and I heartily wiſh it might be able to anſwer their Purpoſe, and that all People would pay Obedience to it: But if we may form a Judgment of what is likely to happen, from what has been the Caſe in Times paſt, I fear they will need ſome ſtronger Security againſt the *Deceits*, *Differences*, and *Incertainties*, they have ſo much Cauſe to be apprehenſive of.

But what is of higher Conſequence, is, that *the Lives and Healths of his Majeſty's Subjects are concerned in it:* And therefore the Public, that is to ſay, every Perſon, who values his own Life; every one who has a Huſband or Wife, a Father or Mother, a Child or a Friend to be concerned for, have an indiſputable Claim to the ſtrongeſt Security they can obtain, that they are not deceived or abuſed by the Adminiſtration of *Miſcompounded*, *Altered*, *or Adulterated Medicines*.

There are three Sorts of Compounded Medicines of the greateſt Conſequence in their Operations, as to the Life, the Strength, the Health,

Health, and the Eaſe of the Body, I mean *Opiates*, *Purgatives*, and *Mercurials*; and, therefore, the greateſt Accuracy and Care are required in preparing them; that the Strength of them may be known, and rightly proportioned by the Preſcriber. This is a Point of the greateſt Moment; and I am led to mention theſe firſt, in Regard to the Frequency of their Adminiſtration; their more immediate and ſenſible Operations, and the great Changes they ſo viſibly produce on the human Body: Not but that others demand equal Care and Fidelity with theſe; whoſe Virtues and Effects, though more ſlow, or leſs diſcernible to the Patient or By-ſtanders, are in general, as certain, and as much to be depended upon by the Phyſician.

For the Sake of the Public, therefore, there ought to be ſome ſtrict Obligation upon all Compounders of Diſpenſatory Medicines, that they do not depart from the Rule laid down to them: An Obligation, which ſhall effectually reſtrain them, either from *Adulterating, for the Purpoſe of Cheapneſs*; *or Varying thro' any ill-grounded Conceit, the Medicines they are directed to prepare for* public Uſe.

But farther, As all compounded Medicines owe their Efficacy to the Simples, which enter into their Compoſition; and alſo as many of theſe Simples are frequently preſcribed alone *, and great Streſs laid upon them, in the Attempts to recover Perſons from dangerous and painful Diſtempers, it is

* Such are Opium, Rhubarb, Jallap, Ipecacuanna, Bark, *&c.*

of the utmoſt Importance; and both Phyſicians and Patients are nearly intereſted, to have a proper Security, that ſuch only ſhall be uſed, which are genuine, and in the greateſt Perfection.

Could it be preſumed, that all Compounders and Sellers of Medicines had been faithful and careful in Times paſt, there would be no Reaſon for the Publication of theſe Papers, or for the Requiring better Securities to the Public, than it has hitherto had. But it is too well known, this has not been the Caſe. For, notwithſtanding Royal Proclamations, and Powers of Viſitation, heretofore publiſhed and granted, there have been frequent Detections of *bad Ingredients* uſed, and of *many Deceits and Differences* in the Compoſitions of Medicines preſcribed in former Pharmacopæias; nor have the Powers hitherto granted, been ſufficient in themſelves, or ſufficiently authorized to prevent the Evil, or to reach all the Perſons concerned in practiſing it; which will appear as well by the following Remarks on what has been actually practiſed upon the Compoſitions in the laſt Pharmacopœia, as from the frequent Complaints, made by the Writers on theſe Subjects.

I muſt firſt premiſe, that the Trade of Wholeſale Medicine making, has of late Years more generally fallen into the Hands of Perſons, who do not viſit the ſick, who have no Knowledge of the Application or Uſe of Medicines; whoſe Reputations are but very remotely concerned in the Succeſs of them; and who not being Eye-witneſſes to the ill Effects

Effects produced by the Adminiſtration of bad ones, cannot be ſuppoſed to ſuffer much Uneaſineſs from ſuch Conſiderations.

Multitudes of Druggiſts and Chymiſts now fill the different Quarters of the Town. It is theſe, who ride the Countries, either themſelves, or their Emiſſaries, and ſupply the Apothecaries, and others, over the greateſt Part of his Majeſty's Dominions. Numbers, if not almoſt all the little Shops near *London*, are furniſhed from them: Nay, there are not many Apothecaries in Town, who, at Times, may not be under a Neceſſity of applying to theſe People for Things they may happen to be out of. So that there is not a Gentleman, or poor Perſon, in Town or Country, who may not be obliged, at one Time or other, to ſwallow down their Compoſitions, ſuch as they happen to be: Nor is it infrequent, to hear Gentlemen complain of the Difficulties they lie under, when in the Country, on this Head.

Vaſt Quantities are ſent Abroad to our Settlements and Factories; and there have not been wanting famous Inſtances of the pernicious Effects of bad Drugs and Medicines, upon our People, in ſome of thoſe Places, labouring under dangerous, epidemic, and as it proved, fatal Diſeaſes. When one conſiders the Unhealthineſs of ſome of thoſe Climates and Countries, they are obliged to viſit or reſide in; the Sickneſſes which prevail there, and the Multitudes of our Countrymen who have been ſwept off by them, it will afford a powerful Argument to all thinking and humane Perſons; all who have any

Regard

Regard for our Colonies, our Navy, our Army, our Mercantile Seamen, our whole Community, why this Affair ought carefully to be looked into, and provided for.

I am far from deſigning to charge all Druggiſts, Chymiſts, or others, with Miſcompounding, Falſifying, or Adulterating their Medicines. I do not doubt, but there may be very juſt and faithful Men amongſt them. I have the greateſt Reaſon to believe, from what I know and have heard, that our Navy is well ſerved; that the Army was never better, if ſo well furniſhed with perfect Drugs and Medicines of all Kinds. Therefore my Obſervations cannot in the leaſt affect ſuch as theſe, and are meant only of others void of this Integrity, who to force a Trade, to underſell their numerous Competitors, and find a living *perfas aut nefas*, in vending large Quantities of Drugs and Medicines, contrive only how to make the laſt cheap and fair to Appearance; and to diſpoſe of the former to ignorant People, either in the Condition they are, *or in Medicinal Compoſitions, where all their Imperfections are pretty ſure to be concealed.*

I have been credibly informed, that ſome Years ſince, when the Phyſicians had obtained a Bill for the Confirmation and Extending of their Power for three Years, many People were thrown into ſuch a Pannic, from the Dread of a thorough Viſitation, as made them to lay down this Part of their Trade; but that when the ſaid Phyſicians proved unſucceſsful in their Application to Parliament for a Renewal or Perpetuity of this Act; and

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the Fears of being viſited were removed; they immediately reſumed their old Traffic, and have continued it ever ſince, though, as may be preſumed from what follows, not much to the Health of the People, or to the Advantage of the fair Trader.

Of DRUGS, *&c.*

IT is a Thing much to be lamented, that we receive ſo few Drugs from Abroad pure and genuine, or fit to be uſed in the Condition they come.

At the very beſt, they almoſt all come the good and bad Sorts together; ſo that great Integrity, and Care, as well as Judgment, are required to chuſe and ſeparate one from another.

Many of them are ſo mixed up with Straws, Sticks, Leaves, Seeds, Stones, and Dirt, through Careleſneſs, or Fraud, hereby to increaſe their Weight, as to demand both Time and Pains to ſeparate and ſtrain them. But it has been too general a Practice, as I have been informed, in Order to ſave the Labour and Expence of ſo doing; *to beat them into the moſt Capital Compoſitions* *, with the other Ingredients *unpicked, and with all their Droſs about them.* Nay, what is worſe, ſometimes

* Such as Venice-Treacle, Mithridate, Diaſcordium, *&c.*

to

to beat in Nothing but the Droſs left after Straining, juſt to flavour the Medicine with the little Remains of the true Drug ſticking to it. Thoſe Drugs, I here refer to, are the Gums and Inſpiſſated Juices, particularly *Opium*, *Galbanum*, *Ammoniacum*, *Opoponux*, *Sagapenum*, and *Aſafœtida*.

Sometimes they ſend from Abroad one Thing for another *. Oftentimes the whole Appearance is a Cheat, a made-up Compoſition, as in the *Caſtor Pods*, *Scammony*, *Balſam of Tolu*, *Peru*, &c.

At other Times, they are in a damaged or periſhing State, particularly the *Rhubarb*, *Bark*, *Jalap*, *Cantharides*, &c.

And various are the Artifices of trimming the Surfaces of ſeveral, and powdering and colouring them over with the Duſt of the ſame Drug, but in a more perfect State, in Order to give them a ſpecious Outſide, and render them ſaleable.

DRUGS WHEN POWDERED, may deceive pretty good Judges, much more thoſe leſs converſant with them; and under this Form great Quantities are vended. Nor has it been uncommon, as I have been told, to pick out the indifferent Pieces, and to take the crum-

* A Diſcovery has been made within a few Weeks paſt of a very pernicious Root, mixed with the GENTIAN, which has endangered the Lives of ſeveral Perſons uſing it for *Gentian* in their Bitters; throwing them into a Delirium, Stupor, and Inſenſibility. I thought it neceſſary juſt to give this Hint, as a Caution to all Apothecaries, to be careful in examining what they take into their Shops, and uſe for *Gentian*. A more particular Account of this Diſcovery, will, as I am informed, be ſoon made public.

bled

bled Fragments and Siftings, and powder them all together; and unleſs they were quite periſhed before, they paſs off tolerably well this Way, particularly *Rhubarb*, *Bark*, *Myrrh*, *Jalap*, &c.

The ſame Thing may be remarked as to ELECTUARIES, where any of theſe Powders are ordered to be mixed in, and made up with Syrup, in which Form it is next to impoſſible to detect them when bad. I doubt not but many *Preſcriptions of the Bark* in this Form, have been diſcredited, and the poor Patient has languiſhed under a tedious Intermittent, from no other Cauſe but the bad Condition of this moſt uſeful Drug.

As it is a cuſtomary Thing with many People, for the Sake of Cheapneſs, to carry their Receipts to be made up at the firſt noted Shop in their Way, they ought to be very careful that they have a fair Perſon to deal with, ſo as not to be cheated of their Money, and their Health into the Bargain.

The dead uſeleſs *Reſiduum* left in making the true *Reſin of Jalap*, powdered with a little of the freſh Root, is often ſold for the genuine POWDER OF JALAP.

The SALT of AMBER, a moſt uſeful Preparation, is counterfeited by powdering the Sal-Armoniac, and then giving it the Colour, Smell, and Taſte of the true Salt, by rubbing a little of the Oil of Amber with it.

The CHYMICAL OILS, of very great Efficacy, when genuine, are adulterated with various Mixtures of Spirits of Wine, Oil of Almonds, Oil of Turpentine, *&c*, and require

no little Skill in the ſeveral Methods of trying them, to detect the Impoſition.

It is to be feared there are many ſmall Apothecaries, who are ſo little ſkilled in any Part of Natural Hiſtory, as not to know the proper Species of ſuch Plants, as are the Produce of their own Nation, which they ſhould uſe, much leſs the diſtinguiſhing Marks of Foreign Drugs, either as to their Sorts or Goodneſs.

The Merchant receives them from Abroad, and when he gets them into his Warehouſe, he has no other Way to diſpoſe of them (I mean ſuch, as are not exported again) ſuch as they are, but to the Druggiſt; nor this laſt but to the Apothecaries, or into his own Compoſitions, or to his Shop Cuſtomers: And it is pretty certain, they do moſt of them go off, ſome how or other this Way: At leaſt, I do not remember often to have heard of any of them, who, out of Principle or Conſcience, deſtroyed any bad Commodity. I believe it is not the general Cuſtom.

This being premiſed as to *Simple Ingredients:* I ſhall now produce ſome Inſtances of the *Incertainties and Deceits*, which uſed to be practiſed upon the *Compoſitions* directed in the former Pharmacopæia.

It is long ſince that I received the firſt Hints of theſe bad Practices, and it has been a Matter of great Concern to me ever ſince. I have taken great Pains to come at all the Information I could get in it. The Particulars I ſhall take Notice of, I either have been

been permitted to tranſcribe from private Receipts, or have had communicated to me, by Perſons I could depend upon; ſome themſelves concerned, and who lamented the Neceſſity they ſaw themſelves under of doing it. I do not pretend to ſay, I ſhall be able to enumerate all the frugal and artificial Methods, uſed in this lucrative Myſtery: As I never had any Intereſt to ſerve, which could induce me to ſtudy them, it is impoſſible I ſhould; but thoſe I ſhall enumerate will be more than ſufficient to ſhew the Neceſſity of ſome effectual Methods, to prevent them for the future.

As the Pharmacopæia, I refer to (publiſhed by the College, 1720) proceeds in an Alphabetical Order, I ſhall conduct my Remarks in the ſame Manner.

Of the Incertainties *and* Deceits *in* COMPOSITIONS.

THE ÆTHIOPS MINERAL, or *Black Powder*, as directed, ſhould conſiſt of equal Parts of *Quickſilver* and *Sulphur*; but, as it was much cheaper to put in two Thirds of the latter, and not eaſy to be diſcovered when prepared, (for the Medicine will be made black with even leſs than this Quantity) this was too generally done; by which means the Buyer was deceived, and the Medicine in every Doſe taken, of leſs Uſe and Efficacy; and differed in its Quality, in Proportion as

the *Brimſtone* took Place of, and differed from the *Mercury.*

The next Thing I ſhall take Notice of, are the CORDIAL WATERS; and I ſhall firſt remark upon their common Method, in all, of putting in a high rectified Spirit into the Still, with the Ingredients and drawing only the ſame Spirit off, lowering it down ſomewhat afterwards, with common Water; which Procedure was abſolutely repugnant to the Rule preſcribed them, (*viz.* to put in Brandy, and draw it lower in moſt Inſtances, than Proof Spirits) and by which the Waters were deprived of many of the moſt Medicinal Parts of the Ingredients; it being well known, that many of them will not yield all their moſt uſeful Qualities to the Spirit, but will be ſet free, and riſe, chiefly with the Feints or Flegm, which comes off towards the laſt. This was particularly true in Reſpect to the HYSTERICK, PLAGUE, CAMOMILE, PÆONY, HORSE-RADISH, and DR. STEPHENS's WATERS. Their avowed Pretence for this, was thereby to make it more tranſparent and limpid, which is never a Criterion of the Goodneſs of a Water, which ought to be ſomething thick and milky. But, by this Means alſo, they had the Opportunity to defraud theſe Waters of Part of the Spicy Ingredients ordered in them; for the Reliſh of a ſtrong Dram, ſweetened with a little Sugar (commonly added) made the Abatement of the Spices leſs perceptible to the Taſte: And, moreover, by giving a more ſpecious Appearance to the Medicine, they could delude the unſkilful Buyer into a falſe Opinion of its

ſuperior

ſuperior Excellence, to the Injury of the fair Trader, who made a Conſcience of preparing it, according to the Rule laid down.

I have ſeen a private Receipt, by which CINNAMON WATER was made, and defrauded of two Thirds of the *Cinnamon*; ſo that, inſtead of a truly cordial, aromatic Medicine, you had only an inflammatory and coagulating Spirit.

Moreover, the *Caſſia of Malabar and Java*, was frequently uſed in this, and all the other Compoſitions, where the true *Ceylon Cinnamon* is directed; which, though it has ſome general Flavour of the *Cinnamon*, enough to counterfeit its Appearance, yet is as inferior, in Fragrancy, Spicyneſs, and Pungency, and indeed in every uſeful Quality, as it is cheaper in Price. Great Care ſhould be taken by all Compounders, that they are not impoſed on, in buying *Caſſia* for *Cinnamon*, which they will be often liable to, if they are not ſkilful and cautious to examine it.

In the AQUA MIRABILIS, *Jamaica Pepper* was the common cheap Subſtitute, for the *Cloves*, *Mace*, and *Nutmegs*; and not only in this Water, but in the others alſo, where Spices are directed: Giving hereby an acrid ſtimulating Quality to the Remedies, inſtead of that producing a gentle Warmth, and kindly reviving Irritation, ſuch as the Spices are experienced to occaſion.

The BLACK CHERRY WATER, inſtead of being prepared from the *Black Cherries*, was too frequently drawn off from *Almond Cakes*, after the Oil had been expreſſed from them; or, which is worſe, from the *Laurel-leaves*, which

which has been diſcovered to be a Poiſon of extraordinary Violence.

LUCATELLUS BALSAM. The common Method of debaſing this, was by ſinking Part of the *Wax* ordered, which was the deareſt Article in the Compoſition, and a very material one for all the Uſes it was deſigned to have; and which was therefore defrauded and injured in Proportion to the Omiſſion. I have known between a fifth and ſixth Part ſubſtituted, by thoſe who had ſome Conſcience left, inſtead of a full fourth; for I have good Reaſon to apprehend, that this Proportion was not allowed in common. Some who put in *Reſin* in its Place, acted ſtill much worſe, by giving it an inflaming, ſticky, and digeſtive Quality, very pernicious in thoſe Breaches and Excoriations, upon the tender Coats of the Bowels, which require the moſt ſoft and healing Applications.

I ſhall introduce here (though out of the Order I propoſed to obſerve) the BASILICON OINTMENT, becauſe it was treated in the ſame unfair Manner, by being allowed a ſixth only, inſtead of a fourth Part of *Wax*; the *Pitch* and *Reſin* being increaſed in Proportion, which does the ſame Miſchief in external, as the former in internal Applications.

CALOMEL, in Regard to its great Efficacy and frequent Uſe, eſpecially in the Caſes of weakly People and Children, whoſe Conſtitutions are greatly endangered by the Adminiſtration of rough Medicines, and more eſpecially Mercurial ones, ought to be prepared in the moſt faithful Manner. The Pharmacopæia directs that this Medicine ſhould be pre-

prepared by four Sublimations or more: Six is the Number made Uſe of, by the moſt ſkilful and faithful People; and this is done in Order to break and comminute the corroſive Salts, which ſtick in the Globules of the Mercury, and thereby render them more ſafe and eaſy when taken into the Stomach and Bowels. But as theſe repeated Operations take up Time, and occaſion a greater Expence of Fire; one or two Sublimations have been generally thought ſufficient for the Seller's Purpoſe, though to the great Hazard of the Patient, whoſe Bowels are racked and tore by the Vellications of this harſh and hazardous Medicine. Nor can the Difference of this from the true Preparation, be well diſcovered by any of the outward Senſes.

The RAWLEIGHS CONFECTION has had the Reputation of being thought a very rich and cordial Compoſition, and to be of eminent Service in a great Variety of Caſes when carefully and faithfully prepared. But being a tedious and coſtly Preparation, there has been none more liable to *Incertainties* and *Deceits*, than this was. For, *firſt*, It was too common a Practice to leave out the *Spices* in whole or in part, which deprived the Medicine of ſome of its warmeſt and moſt reviving Parts. *Secondly*, It was cuſtomary to load the Tincture with the herby and other cheap Ingredients; nay to make watery Infuſions, hereby to increaſe the Quantity of Extract, and thus deadening the Force of the Medicine. *Thirdly*, To ſave Labour and Expence of Fire, though contrary to the Directions of the Book, they omitted to make the fixed

fixed Salt, which was then conſidered as a proper Solvent of the Reſinoſe Parts of the Medicine; and as a Menſtruum to unite the oily ones with the reſt, and render the whole Saponaceous. *Fourthly*, Another Method of debaſing it, was, by doubling the Quantity of the dry Species, which leſſened the cordial Quality by one half, or more, of every Doſe preſcribed or taken.

Nothing can more ſhew the Neceſſity of ſome effectual Method to oblige Perſons to Fidelity, than the Conſideration that all theſe Abuſes may be committed, in the making of this one Medicine; and yet it is ſcarce poſſible to be certain in the Diſcovery of them, though they ſhould all be practiſed.

In the DIACASSIA WITH MANNA, not only the *Syrup of Violets* was left out, but the Proportion of the *Sugar* was double the Quantity preſcribed: The *Caſſia*, from which the Medicine derives, chiefly, its mild, cooling, ſolutive Quality being diminiſhed, to make Way for this cheaper Ingredient.

In all the PLASTERS, it was a general Method to put in *Lard* inſtead of *Oil*, and even not the beſt Kind of that (unleſs where Whiteneſs of Colour diſtinguiſhed the *Plaſter*) but a ſaline, uncleanſed Sort, very unfriendly oftentimes, and troubleſome to the Skin, exciting inflammatory Heats and Eruptions, in Caſes where the Plaſter is applied to ſerve, only as lenient Defenſitives, or to keep the other neceſſary Dreſſings in their Places.

In the DIACHYLON WITH GUMS, and in the PARACELSUS, the *Burgundy Pitch* was too commonly ſubſtituted, at leaſt in Part, for

for the warm attenuating *Gums*, by which Practice, the double Faculty the Plaſters ſhould be indued with, either to reſolve, or ripen Tumors, as Nature is diſpoſed, was converted into one only, *viz.* that of forcing a Suppuration, by their viſcoſe, cloſe Adheſion; by ſtopping all Perſpiration, by loading the Part with the detained Humours, and cauſing a more violent Attrition among them; without communicating any ſubtile active Particles to diſſolve their Tenacity, and to open a Paſſage for them back into the Veſſels.

The Greenneſs given to the MELILOTE by *Verdigreaſe*, inſtead of the Herb, was of ſuch ill Conſequence, giving ſuch intolerable Pain by its corroſive and inflammatory Quality, that I think I need not enlarge upon the Wickedneſs of this Adulteration, ſometimes put in Practice, though I hope not often: But there is another almoſt as bad Method, which I am ſure has been, I mean that of increaſing the Proportion of the *Reſin*, and leſſening that of the *Wax*. I have a Receipt of an eminent Shop, now in my Hands, according to which, the *Wax* is to the *Reſin*, only as 4 to 15, whereas it ought to be as 4 to 8. The frequent Uſe of this Plaſter in dreſſing of Bliſters, has ſhewn it to be but an uneaſy Application at the beſt, and it had too much of the ſticking Quality before in it, for this Purpoſe, and therefore muſt have been rendered ſtill worſe for every Addition of this Kind; *and many a tender Back has ſmarted ſorely for it.*

I come now to the CARYOCOSTINUM, where the noted *Pimento* or *Jamaica Pepper* entered again as a Subſtitute for the *Clove Spice.*

The LENITIVE ELECTUARY was made in a much more compendious and cheap Manner than the Rule warranted, *viz.* by boiling up a thick Syrup of brown Sugar; then adding the leſs expenſive Pulps of *Tamarinds* and *Damſons* (inſtead of Prunes) with ſometimes, when cheap, a ſmall Portion of *Caſſia*; and finiſhing the whole with the *Sena* and *Coriander.* I have been indeed told, that this anſwered the Purpoſe of the Medicine very well: But though we ſhould take their Word for this, yet, as it is a Deviation from Integrity in the Compounder, and a Deluſion of the Buyer, it ought by no means to be allowed of.

The three Capital Electuaries, *viz.* DIASCORDIUM, MITHRIDATE, and VENICE TREACLE, as there are great Quantities continually ſold of them, were ſubjected to all the ſaving Artifices, that a fraudulent Invention could furniſh. The *Spices*, dear *Gums*, and other *coſtly Drugs* were left out in whole, or in part; or when added, were put in, the one unſtrained, and with all their droſſy Parts; the others, in bad Condition, ungarbled, and unpicked. I have taſted *Venice Treacle*, in which, no Warmth or Spicyneſs could be perceived, but what was owing to Pepper and Ginger, nor indeed any other prevailing Taſte. Upon my aſking once a Wholeſale Dealer, how he could manage it to afford this Medicine, at a certain Price, he told

told me, he ſometimes ſold it for; when I had been aſſured it would coſt more, if faithfully prepared? He frankly anſwered me, that he had rather always ſell it genuine; but that as there were ſome of his Country Chaps, who would have it at that Price, and conſtantly wrote for it; his Method was to let it down with clarified Honey, in the Proportion of one Pound to two of the Electuary; and that it was impoſſible for any one to diſcover it. The ſame he did by the other two Electuaries alſo, when the ſame Neceſſity of retaining a Cuſtomer obliged him; for they uſed to alledge, that others had been and offered them at that Price, and therefore they would give no more for them. Farther, with Reſpect to the *Opium* in theſe Medicines, every Doſe of which Medicines is directed with a View to an aſcertained Quantity of *Opium* in each, and the good Effects propoſed by the Preſcriber, depending greatly upon Certainty herein; there has been great Omiſſion and Neglect, as well as Abuſe in this Particular, by beating it in, dried and decayed, and with all its Filth and other extraneous Bodies, as it comes from Abroad, with the other Ingredients; inſtead of ſeparating theſe Things by Solution and Straining, and then putting in the Quantity of pure *Opium*, according to Direction. In ſhort, the Ways of Adulterating theſe Capital Compoſitions, are ſo various, that although they are every Day preſcribed, the Phyſician can be at no Sort of Certainty what he gives, or what he can depend upon.

When one conſiders in what a great Variety of Caſes, all theſe Medicines are neceſſary, *viz.* in Colds, Fevers, Fluxes, and other numerous Diſorders of the Head, Stomach, and Bowels; how nearly the Health, Eaſe, and Safety of the Patient are concerned in their being faithfully prepared; I think there needs no other Argument to ſhew how extremely culpable the Conduct I have mentioned, is; nor how neceſſary it is become to make ſome effectual Proviſion for the future, againſt the Frauds of the Seller, the ſordid Avarice of ſome Buyers, and the Miſchiefs likely to be occaſioned to all Takers of them.

The ELIXIR PROPRIETATIS, according to the Receipt of a Shop of very great Trade, a Copy of which, I now have before me, inſtead of containing the *Myrrh*, *Aloes*, and *Saffron* in equal Portions, as directed, is allowed only two Parts of *Saffron* to twelve of the other two, which, in making a Gallon, at a Time when Saffron is dear, may put near twenty Shillings in the Compounder's Pocket, and the Theft not be eaſily detected. A powerful Temptation to an avaricious Trader!

The ELIXIR of *Vitriol* is ſubjected to a Variety of Subſtitutes, in the Room of its Spices.

The LIQUID LAUDANUM has been uſed alſo to be robbed of Part of its *Saffron*; and I have Reaſon to believe, of its *Opium* too.

The next Inſtance of Fraud I ſhall take Notice of, and which deſerved the ſevereſt Cenſure, was that of depriving the PILLS COCHIÆ MINORES and DE DUOBUS, of half the

the Quantity of the *Oil of Cloves* preſcribed, which I once had an Opportunity of diſcovering myſelf, at the Time of compounding one of them, and by a Sight of the ſtanding Receipts for both. Moreover, I had ſufficient Reaſon to ſuſpect, that even what was put in, was not genuine, but an adulterated Mixture with common Oil. Both theſe Pills having *Coloquintida* in them, it was on the Account of this harſh Drug, that the aforeſaid warm aromatick Oil was thought abſolutely neceſſary, to prevent thoſe intolerable Twinges and Spaſms, which it is otherwiſe apt to occaſion in the Guts, and which, when they are permanent, endanger a total Stoppage and Inverſion.

The Species *Hieræ*, or HIERA PICRA, had a Place given it in the *greater Pil Cochiæ*. This Species was uſed to be adulterated by leaving out the *Cinnamon*, *Spicnard*, and Part of the *Saffron*; and ſubſtituting *Pepper* and *Ginger* in their Room; as alſo, by uſing a coarſer and more nauſeous *Aloes*, inſtead of the milder and leſs offenſive, though much dearer *Socotrine* Sort. The Abuſe every Day committed, in compounding this *Hiera Picra*, is become ſo groſs and palpable, that many do not ſo much as endeavour to ſave Appearances: And it looks as if the Commonneſs of this Abuſe, was the only Reaſon why the Buyer is patient under ſuch perpetual Impoſition: For though there is ſcarcely a Compoſition, which lies more open to Inſpection, *viz.* by its Fragrancy, aromatick bitter Taſte, and by its bright and beautiful yellow Colour, when truly prepared; yet, it is too common

common among many Wholeſale Venders of Drugs and Medicines in Town, to put off upon their Cuſtomers, a dirty brown Powder, coarſely ſifted, odiouſly bitter, biting, inſtead of being aromatick, and utterly deſtitute of all Delicacy, either to the Smell or Taſte.

The Method uſed with the ECPHRACTIC PIL, was to leſſen the Quantity of the *Rhubarb*; and to put in the *Hiera Picra* in the Place of the *Spicy Extract*.

The ſame compendious Method of putting together the Powders of the Ingredients, inſtead of making an Extract, was uſed in the PIL. RUDII, adding a little adulterated *Oil of Cloves*, to repreſent the Spices directed in it.

In the PIL. GUMMOSA, the *Sagapenum* was totally omitted, the *Opoponax* in ſmall Proportion; the *Ammoniacum* and *Galbanum* ſupplying their Places.

But among all the Inſtances of Impoſition I have yet mentioned, I think there is none exceeds that uſed in counterfeiting the celebrated GASCONS POWDER. One of the diſtinguiſhing Notes of this Medicine is the peculiar greenneſs of its Colour, depending when true, intirely upon the *Bezoar Stone*; but by the help of a little *Spinach Juice*, or, as I have been told, ſometimes of *Ox Gall*, they have learned ſo well to counterfeit it, as requires a very nice Inſpection and Compariſon, to find out the Difference. By Means of this Artifice, I once ſaw an Ounce of very fine *Gaſcons Powder* to Appearance, ſold by a Druggiſt for one Shilling, at a Time when

Bezoar

Bezoar Stone bore ſuch a Price, as to make every Ounce of the Compoſition ſtand the fair Artiſt in near nine Shillings: And even upon this one Shilling, there was an exorbitant Profit made; for the Perſon who ſold it, frankly hinted to me, that he believed, (except the Colour, which was then a Secret) there was no other Material uſed but the *Crabs Claws*, or, what was meaner, the common *Clay of the Pipe-makers*. This Preparation is hauked about the Town, and ſold to the Shops, by dirty Fellows, who make a Livelihood of it. When this comes out of the wholeſale Shops, into the Hands of Retailers, and is ſold ſo low as one Farthing *per* Grain, which equals ten Shillings the Troy Ounce, what a monſtrous Advantage is here made? But when made into Boluſſes or Draughts by the practiſing People, it exceeds all Imagination. Without entering into the Conſideration of the Uſes of this Medicine, when honeſtly prepared; this is ſo notorious a Cheat upon the Public, and ſuch an Injury to the fair Trader, as ought by no Means, to be any longer endured.

In the IAPIS CONTRAYERVA, the Pearls were omitted, and the *Oyſter-ſhell* Powder put in the Room of it.

The SAL PRUNEL, I have been told, is frequently adulterated with *Alom*, which, if true, is as wicked a Procedure, as almoſt any Thing in this Way can be; the *Alom* being of a Nature oppoſite to all the Intentions the Medicine can be given upon.

The SPECIES DIAMBRÆ was liable to the ſame Abuſes, with the *Hiera Picra*, and all other

other ſpicy Medicines, as being robbed of their beſt Ingredients, and debaſed with others of different Qualities.

The Spirits of SALVOLATILE, ſo much and ſo long in Requeſt, is almoſt a different Medicine in every different Shop, and perhaps generally different from what the Rule directed. There is Room here alſo for much ſaving, and the only End now aimed at, ſeems to be to make it cheap, and ſmell agreeably.

The SPIRIT OF HARTSHORN is drawn from a Variety of Animal Subſtances, different from what it ought to be, *viz.* from *Urinous* Mixtures; from *common Bones* of any Kind; and from *Ivory Shavings:* I knew a Chymiſt, who never uſed, as he himſelf acknowledged to me, any other Material than the laſt mentioned, and who always ſold it for the true Hartſhorn Spirit.

There is not perhaps, any Remedy in more general Uſe than the DIACODIUM. A Remedy, which being an *Opiate*, ought to be prepared with great Care and Exactneſs; yet which is ſubject to ſuch Difference of Strength, that an Ounce from one Shop ſhall equal in Virtue, two from another; nay, three or four of that made by ſome: This does not only ariſe from the different Manners and Time of infuſing or boiling the *Poppy Heads*; but I know a Shop where not above a fourth Part of the Heads preſcribed were uſed, whither from Negligence, Conceit, ſaving of Trouble, or from what other Cauſe, I could not obtain ſufficient Satisfaction about: I can only determine, that it is a bad Procedure, from whate-

ver Cauſe it ſprings, and ought, if poſſible, to be prevented for the future.

The *Ruſſia Caſtor* was directed to be uſed in making the TINCTURE OF CASTOR, as it is leſs fœtid, more fragrant and reviving, and eaſier born upon the Stomach; but the *New England* Sort being much cheaper, was uſed in its Stead: This is much inferior in all the Inſtances mentioned, to the other. Beſides this, it was not an uncommon Practice with frugal Managers, after the Tincture was extracted, to throw freſh Spirit upon the Reſiduum, give a little ſtronger Heat, and force out another groſſer Tincture, hereby adding to the Quantity, while they debaſed the Purity and Elegancy of the Medicine.

In the TINCTURE OF RHUBARB, and in all other Compoſitions where this Drug has a Place, it was too frequent a Practice to pick out from the Heap all the bad *Rhubarb*, and hide it in them: A Practice too bad to need many Words to expoſe it, but ſo common as to need ſome effectual Reſtraint; it being a Drug ſo material in many Caſes, that its being bad muſt greatly endanger the Safety of the Patient.

CONCLUSION.

I Have thus taken the Pains to collect ſome Inſtances of the more common Abuſes, both as to *Drugs*, and in the *Compoſitions of Medicines*, as they have from Time to Time fallen under my Notice. I have been under

a Neceſſity, ſometimes, of ſpeaking a little, of the Nature and Uſes of theſe *Compoſitions*, when faithfully prepared, that I might thereby point out how much they are injured by ſuch Adulterations. And this, I perſuade myſelf, will have a proper Effect on ſome Perſons, who, either, without any ill Deſign, may have fallen into this beaten Track, through Want of due Attention to ſuch Conſiderations; or, at worſt, from the Motive of being upon equal Terms with others, who feel no Check, wherever there is a View of Advantage.

Upon the whole, I believe every honeſt and conſiderate Man, will ſee from what has been remarked, how neceſſary it is, *for the Credit of the Phyſician, the Reputation of Pharmacy, and the Safety of the Publick*, that this unwarrantable and unjuſt Liberty of altering or debaſing the preſcribed Forms of Medicine, ſhould be prevented by ſome effectual public Law for that Purpoſe.

My View has chiefly been to expoſe the more groſs Adulterations practiſed in compounding; and I have therefore ſaid but little with Reſpect to other Alterations, flowing from the Conceit of the Compounder; though theſe are now become ſo various and ſo numerous, as to ſtand in great Need of proper Correction.

The only Check which has been hitherto laid upon thoſe unwarrantable Practices, has been the Powers granted to the *College of Phyſicians*, and to the *Company of Apothecaries*, of viſiting the Shops, and inſpecting the Medicines.

In

In the 32d Year of *H.* VIII. *An Act of Parliament* paſſed, whereby *the Preſident and Community of Phyſicians were enabled to chuſe four of their own Body, who, after being ſworn, had full Power to enter into the Houſes of Apothecaries, or others, uſing the Myſtery of Apothecaries, to ſearch, view, and ſee all Drugs, Apothecary Wares, and Stuffs*; and, *after calling to them the Wardens of the Myſtery of Apothecaries, to burn, or otherwiſe deſtroy ſuch as they found defective, corrupted, or not fit to be adminiſtered*; *and whoever refuſed to be ſearched, forfeited one-hundred Shillings.*

In the 1ſt of Queen *Mary*, *Another Act* paſſed in Confirmation of the former, enacting among other Things, That, *for the better Execution of the ſaid Search and View, it might be lawful for the Wardens of the Grocers* (or Apothecaries) *to go with the ſaid four Phyſicians, in their View and Search*; *and that every Perſon refuſing to be ſearched, ſhould forfeit ten Pounds: And*, enacting alſo, *that all Juſtices, Mayors*, &c. *ſhould aid and aſſiſt the ſaid Phyſicians, in the due Execution of the ſaid Act.*

Theſe two Acts limited the Search to the City of *London*; but by *another Act* of his late Majeſty (ſometime ſince expired,) the Phyſicians were enabled to extend their Search *to within ſeven Miles of the City and Suburbs, with an Exception of all Drugs, in the Houſes or Warehouſes of Merchants, Importers, or Druggiſts, not making or keeping Medicines for Sale*: As alſo, *of all Medicines, made in Virtue of Letters Patents.* And providing, That *in Caſe any one thinking himſelf injured, by the Judg-*

ment of the ſaid four Cenſors, ſhould deſire to appeal from them to the Judgment of the College, he might have Liberty ſo to do.

Theſe, I think, are all the Powers which have been granted by Acts of Parliament. And theſe undoubtedly have been ſerviceable, ſo far as they reached, and ſo long as they laſted; namely, to detect ſuch bad Drugs, as the Owners of them thought fit to produce, *but were not ſufficient to bring out thoſe they had a Mind to conceal.* Much leſs can they be thought ſufficient to come at a clear Diſcovery of the many practicable *Deceits and Differences* in Medicinal Compoſitions.

For Medicines, compounded of a Variety of Ingredients, may involve Secrets, *which none can reveal, but thoſe who have wrapped them up together.* Not all the Senſes combined in an Examination, though the Examiner be ever ſo acute or accurate, can diſcover many hidden *Deceits* or *Variations* in them. Bad Drugs may be put in; expenſive ones omitted, and cheaper ſubſtituted in their Room; and yet the Medicine may retain the Appearance, and all the general ſenſible Qualities of the true Compoſition, in ſome Degree. For ſome Drugs have Taſtes or Smells ſo prevalent, that even if half decayed, or if put in, in ever ſo ſmall a Quantity, will be perceived through all. Others have ſome general Affinity in theſe Reſpects with many more; and thus may the Examiners Skill be eluded; or, at leaſt his Judgment greatly perplexed, and his Determination uncertain. Nor is it at all to be doubted, but that Impoſitions of this Sort, have very frequently paſſed undiſcovered and uncenſured.

And

And it is very likely, that ſome Conſiderations of this Sort gave Occaſion to the *Charter* granted the Phyſicians, 15 *James* I, which after reciting, That *notwithſtanding former Grants and Acts, divers Enormities did abound, through the Unſkilfulneſs, Fraud, and Deceit of Apothecaries, Druggiſts*, &c. They were granted *full Power*, &c. *to examine, ſurvey*, &c. *Apothecaries, Druggiſts, Preparers of Chymical Medicines*, &c. *To examine all ſuch Perſons* UPON OATH, *concerning the Receipts and Compoſitions of their Medicines; and then to take, burn, or deſtroy ſuch as they found defective or bad.* It was alſo granted them, *to ſummon any ſuch before them, to fine them for Non-appearance: If they ſhould appear, and it ſhould be proved upon Examination, that they ſold or kept any Wares, Drugs*, &c. *defective, or not meet to be adminiſtered; or did make, compound, or deliver any Medicine Simple or Compounded, differing from, and not agreeable in Name, Nature, and Quantity, unto the Præſcript or Direction, that they ſhould be fined three Pound for each Offence, and impriſoned till they paid it.*

This Charter went indeed to the Bottom of the Evil, and reached to the ſeveral Sources, from whence it ſprings. It provided equally againſt the *Weakneſs*, as againſt the Diſhoneſty of the Compounder.

Nor is it to be doubted, but that great Miſchiefs may ariſe, where there is no fraudulent Intention, from the ſelf-ſufficient Conceits of vain Men, who over-rating their ſmall Abilities, or little Knowledge, and fancying to themſelves ſome Improvements they can make

make upon the Plan laid down to them, take upon them the unjuſtifiable Liberty of omitting ſome Things, ſubſtituting others, altering the Proportions, and thus of making the Medicine, *to differ both in Nature and Quantity from the Præſcript they ſhould conform to.*

I ſay, it cannot be doubted, but that great Miſchiefs may ariſe from hence, if it be conſidered, that all intelligent Practitioners, when they preſcribe a compounded Remedy, preſcribe it upon the Apprehenſion of certain Qualities or Powers reſulting from the known Compoſition, and upon the Knowledge which Experience has furniſhed them with, of certain Effects and Alterations they are capable of producing in the Body. Whoever, therefore, takes upon him to alter that Compoſition, by Omiſſions, Subſtitutions, or varying the Proportions, runs the Riſque of giving a different Quality, in Kind or Degree, and conſequently of making it to produce different Effects from what are intended; which, if the Intention of the Preſcriber be right, muſt be to the Detriment of the Patient.

But this Charter, had it been enforced by an Act of Parliament, and *executed impartially*, would have effectually provided for the Detection and Suppreſſion both of *Frauds and Incertainties*; in as much as very few could have been ſuppoſed ſo weak or ſo wicked to perſiſt in theſe unwarrantable Practiſes, when either frequent and complicated Perjuries muſt have been the Conſequence of ſuch Examinations; or the utter Loſs of their Characters and Buſineſs, if they had been ſo honeſt as to acknowledge the Truth.

In

In another *Charter* of 15 *Charles* II. all theſe Grants were renewed, with a Proviſion, That *in Caſe any Perſon ſhould think himſelf aggrieved, he might appeal to the Lord Chancellor, two Chief Juſtices, and Chief Baron.*

The Apothecaries Company have alſo a *Charter*, which was granted the 13th of *James* I. which after reciting, *That many ignorant and unexperienced Men not inſtituted in the Art and Myſtery of the Apothecaries, did make and compound very many falſe, unwholeſome, hurtful, corrupt, and pernicious Medicines.*— *Grants them the Power of making Laws*, &c. *to reſpect all exerciſing and occupying the Art and Myſtery of the Apothecaries, within the City of* London, *its Liberties and Suburbs, and within ſeven Miles of the ſame.*— *Granting* alſo farther, *That no Perſon ſhould have, hold, or furniſh an Apothecary's Shop, or exerciſe the ſaid Art, Myſtery*, &c. *without having firſt ſerved an Apprenticeſhip with ſome Free Apothecary.* —*And* laſtly, *Granting them the Power of entering the Workhouſes and Shops of all Perſons, uſing or exerciſing the ſaid Art, within the City of* London, *its Liberties, Suburbs, and within ſeven Miles thereof; or wherever any ſimple or compounded Medicines, Wares, Drugs*, &c. *may be likely to be found.*— And to *burn all hurtful, falſe, adulterated, ſtale, corrupted, unwholeſome Medicines*, &c.

It appears from what I have recited, that the Wiſdom of our Legiſlature has at different Times, thought fit to entruſt the Powers of Viſitations, Searching, and deſtroying bad Drugs and Medicines, with the *Phyſicians and Apothecaries*, ſeparately and jointly.

The Powers, which the *College of Phyſicians*

at

at preſent have, are derived from the *Acts* of 32 *H.* VIII, and 1 *of* Queen *Mary*,—— are limited chiefly to the City of *London*—to the Viſitation of Apothecaries only. At leaſt, it is doubtful, what Power they have to viſit others.— They are confined to a *mere Inſpection* of Drugs, Medicines, *&c.*— They can only judge upon outſide Appearances, without being able to detect many of the numberleſs Fallacies, which may lie hid underneath; and conſequently, whether they approve or cenſure, they muſt be directed for the greater Part, by uncertain Conjecture.

The Apothecaries have only *a Charter*, and conſequently, no ſufficient Powers to anſwer the End.

It may poſſibly be thought a difficult Matter to grant *ſufficient Powers* to cure the Evil, and at the ſame Time to prevent *Partiality* and *unfair Dealings*, in the Execution of them.

It may be thought requiſite to provide for ſome *equitable and expeditious Appeal*, upon an Apprehenſion ſuch Circumſtances may happen. Theſe Conſiderations I ſhall leave to the better Judgment of my Superiors.

But I ſhould think the more frequent the Viſitations are, the better it would be; and, conſequently, that theſe Viſitations would be more frequent and effectual, if granted both to the College of Phyſicians, and Company of Apothecaries, than to either of them ſingly, and *if theſe Viſitors were ſworn to an impartial Diſcharge of their Duty.*

Laſtly, I apprehend there can be no effectual Stop put to this growing Evil, until all *Compounders of Diſpenſatory Medicines for Sale, whether Apothe-*

Apothecaries, Druggiſts, Chymiſts, or others, *of whatever Denomination, ſhall be ſubjected by Law to an Examination upon Oath; or at leaſt, till the Servants of all ſuch ſhall be ſubjected to ſuch Examinations.* This Method will bid fair for penetrating into all unlawful and miſchievous Secrets, and for detecting and putting a Stop to the whole Iniquity.

Nor can it be well ſuppoſed, that any honeſt fair Man need have any uneaſy Apprehenſions from ſuch a Law, or fear to ſtand the Teſt of the ſtricteſt Examination; eſpecially if he can have an equitable, an eaſy and ſpeedy Appeal. His Simples will ſpeak for themſelves. His Compoſitions will not be ſubjected to Condemnation, upon any wrong Judgment, fallacious Gueſs, or partial Cenſure of any Examiner. He will have the Opportunity of clearing up all Doubts about them. He will rejoice to have a fixed and certain Rule to govern himſelf by; and which all Perſons, who may ſtand in any Competition with him for Buſineſs, will be indiſpenſibly obliged to comply with, as well as himſelf. And he will hereby be put upon a level of Advantage with the diſhoneſt fraudulent Interloper, who may have heretofore, by wicked Artifices, found means to underſell him, and to run away with a large and profitable Part of his Buſineſs. It will raiſe the Profeſſion of Pharmacy into Credit, which Nothing can ſo much tend to ruin as Frauds and Deceits practiſed by thoſe who carry it on. And therefore I ſhould think it would redound to the Honour of the Company of Apothecaries, to apply to Parliament for an Act to this Purpoſe.

POSTSCRIPT.

SINCE the Writing of this Pamphlet, I find the Apothecaries are applying to Parliament, for a Redreſs to the Evil it was deſigned to expoſe. On which Occaſion I think myſelf bound to declare, that I had wrote it long before I received any Notice of ſuch a Deſign being on Foot, and intended to publiſh it about the ſame Time the *Pharmacopœia* came out. Nor has this any Connexion with their Proceedings; not having communicated either my Writing or Publiſhing it to any one of them; and being, as the Author of it, at this Time, an abſolute Stranger to all of them. I do not know the Particulars of the Bill deſigned, any farther than what the Votes mention; and from ſome Reports which have come to my Ears. I apprehend that Difficulties will be found, Objections ſtarted, and perhaps a powerful Oppoſition, made by Perſons, who may have an Intereſt ſo to do. But I hope, now the Thing is ſet on Foot, the Wiſdom of Parliament, without Regard to the Artifices or Intereſts of any Set or Sets of Men, *the Petitioners or their Opponents*, will exert itſelf for the Good of the Public, and frame ſome equitable and effectual Law, to this moſt neceſſary and ſalutary Purpoſe.

FINIS.

ERRATA.

Page 8, l. 6, r. *Opoponax.* P. 23, l. 26, r. *Lapis.*